



Chris Owens
Director

OFW has been fortunate to have several interns this year. Their energy and interest have helped expand work in areas such as collecting data and information.

One of the projects which benefited was the EPO Data Project. The project now has collected data from about 1,200 forms! Approximately 400 requests for Emergency Protection Orders are made in Jefferson County each month. This project will provide valuable information & insights about children and adult victims of intimate violence.

While interning with OFW students have been able to observe Family Court, interview women leading local organizations, assist in planning future projects and attend workshops related to their interests & areas of study.

We owe them and our volunteers a big "THANK YOU" for their time, hard work and dedication to women's issues.

You will be seeing some of their observations on page 2 of this newsletter and in future editions.

October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Louisville Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (FRC) is a standing sub-committee of the Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (DVPCC). The Office For Women is a member of DVPCC by Ordinance and a member of FRC.

FRC reviews domestic violence cases which result in fatalities. The purpose is to work toward prevention, accountability & systems improvement. Cases have been reviewed since 1996.

Why more needs to be done:

Despite the work of committees and collaborations, and despite progress in several areas, Kentucky has the highest rate of female stalking victims in the nation. 1 of 4 Kentucky women will be a victim of stalking. Kentucky ranked 11th in the nation for females murdered by males in single victim/single offender homicides.

The real work to be done rests with each of us.

We must each take a stand against accepting or ignoring violence in our families, by our friends and within our community.

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee presented its biennial report for 2011-2012 to the Louisville Metro Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council.

Mayor Fischer attended the presentation and stated: *"Domestic violence touches every person in our community, in one way or another. It may be happening to a friend, family member or even a co-worker, so it is extremely important that we use this opportunity and this data to help build awareness and provide information to our residents about the available services and resources."*

The report contains 28 recommendations, such as: Amend the Kentucky Revised Statutes to allow individuals to file for protective orders in the county in which either the petitioner or respondent lives and/or where the violence occurred.

[View [the report.](#)]

Domestic Violence Awareness Activities and Outreach



Kathryn Tillet stood with a "Silent Witness" from the Center for Women and Families earlier this month Kathryn works with OFW as the Louisville Metro Community Outreach staff for the Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center).

The Silent Witnesses Project is part of a national effort to raise awareness about the devastating effects of intimate partner abuse. Silent Witnesses are either life-sized red silhouettes—or live individuals—holding the story of a person in the community who lost their life to domestic homicide.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month the Center for Women and Families plans a variety of activities to raise awareness. "[Thursdays in Black](#)" - wearing black on Thursdays is one of the ways anyone can show support for victims.

You can find out more about the Center for Women & Families and on-going activities by visiting their online [calendar](#).

Louisville Metro Office for Women (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization. OFW Committee involvement examines women's needs, system responses and assists in development of recommendations. The Office serves as an information and resource hub, maximizing resources through community education & partnerships, communication, collaboration, interns/volunteers and technology.



A Special Thank You To Interns & Volunteers

Rachel and Bridgett recently completed their internships.

Some of you may know Bridgett from her emails and work with coordinating the EPO Project. As part of that project she set up the orientation process for volunteers and helped re-launch data collection during October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In addition, both Bridgett and Rachel spent time entering EPO data and attended workshops & a forum on human trafficking.

As Rachel explains, her project was geared toward career-readiness with mentorship through shadowing successful women. She had a difficult task of identifying beginning steps for a project which will launch at an undetermined date. We're so glad she took on this project which will create a foundation to help women with their career choices.

Josie continues to intern at OFW. You will be hearing more about her project and her experiences over the next few weeks.

Saying "Goodbye" - Bridgett and Rachel

Bridgett Peak: I was an intern from Lindsey Wilson College currently working on my Bachelor's Degree in Counseling and Human Service. I chose to do my internship at Office for Women because I am passionate about advocacy. During my time with OFW, I have expanded my knowledge of advocacy from a policy perspective.

My prior understanding with regards to advocacy was advocating for others meant speaking out for those that do not have a voice; however the process of advocating is more expansive. During this internship I attended trainings and worked on projects that exposed me to me viewing advocacy from a different perspective. In addition I was allowed to attend a courtroom proceeding to see how the legal side of the system works.

I have learned there are many steps one must take in order for change to occur. This requires more knowledge about other agencies, who participate in providing services, and how to get those services implemented and executed. Through this experience I have learned that being an advocate for others is more than being a voice, it is knowledge and power that allot for change; which requires time and the collaboration of people working together.

Rachel Burkholder: I was an intern from Lindsey Wilson College. During my time with the Office for Women I have been creating the framework for a shadowing program called Shadowing the Executive Professional (S.T.E.P.).

This program is geared towards female students who have the desire to get an overview in a career field of their interest without having to devote as much time that a normal internship would require.

The students will be paired up with a female executive from one of the many agencies within the Louisville Metro area and be afforded the opportunity to follow the executive through the daily processes of that particular job. This will not only save students time but provide insight into their chosen career field from the executive professional perspective.

On behalf of the Office for Women, I project the target launch time for the S.T.E.P. program will be Spring 2014.

Thank you and we look forward to this new and exciting service that will assist women in our community.

Reflections: OFW Internship Experiences

By Josie Timmons, OFW Intern

The past few weeks have been busy ones here at the OFW. We have been able to participate in several interesting and informative events. The CIVIC Workshop, Take Back the Night and the screening and panel discussion about human trafficking were all in one week! While I was not able to attend the event on human trafficking, I really found the other two events educational and thought provoking.

I have been purposely attempting to examine questions and situations through a more intersectional and global lens. Before last year, I had not done much of the latter of the two. However, as I am taking a Women's Studies course this semester focusing on a global perspective that has been much more in the forefront. Because of this, I found the CIVIC workshop on Intimate Violence within International Communities especially interesting. I have attending workshops and events before pertaining to the topic of violence against women, but never with a focus on women in the international community, who have a very specific unique experience with a set of service needs.

I know many of you who do this kind of work daily will not be surprised, but for example, I never recognized that due to language barriers, something which seemed as simple as communicating could be a huge intimidating and confusing hurdle for someone within the international community. It was discussed how, often family members will interpret for women, and sometimes the abuser would be the one communicating and interpreting between victims and the police or advocates.

One can obviously see the major issues and concerns that arise in a situation such as that. One of the main thoughts I took away from this conference was the need for non-relative interpreters in order for victims of intimate violence to be able to communicate clearly and confidentially with service staff who are trying to assist them.

I also really appreciated the resource tables on different organizations and groups around Louisville who work to help the international community.